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# Aberrations of British Lepidoptera

By S. GORDON SMITH, F.L.S., F.R.E.S.

## PLATE III.

The aberrations mentioned in this paper are all in the collection of S. Gordon Smith.

*Triphaena pronuba* L. ab. **infrapallida** ab. nov. (Fig. 1).

Hindwing—creamy white with pale greyish border.

Type ♀ : Tarvin, nr. Chester, bred 1921, by S. Gordon Smith.

*Biston betularia* L. ab. **grisea** ab. nov. (Fig. 2).

Head, thorax, abdomen and forewings dark grey, hindwing grey.

Type ♂ : Chester, bred 1938 by S. Gordon Smith.

*Triphosa dubitata* L. ab. **brunneosuffusa** ab. nov. (Fig. 4).

Forewing dark brown tinted with pink and crimson. Subterminal line normal. Hindwing much darker than normal.

Type ♀ : Castor Hanglands at light 1947, S. Gordon Smith.

*Cleora cinctaria* Schiff. ab. **separata** ab. nov. (Fig. 6).

Forewing—similar to ab. *submarmoraria* Fuchs. but with a blackish brown line through the middle of the white band extending from the costa to the inner margin.

Type ♂ : Portmadoc district 1953, S. Gordon Smith.

*Leucoma salicis* L. ab. **radiosa** ab. nov. (Fig. 7).

Forewing—Veins on outer margin and along part of the costa black, otherwise typical.

Type ♂ : Wallasey, bred 1923 by S. Gordon Smith.

*Eriogaster lanestris* L. ab. **nigrosuffusa** ab. nov. (Fig. 8).

Forewing and hindwing with the whitish fascia indistinct, the space beyond these to the cilia is suffused with black, cilia black.

Type ♂ : New Forest, March 1921 *ex* Vaughan-Roberts Collection.

*Amathes glareosa* Esp. ab. **griseonigra** ab. nov. (Fig. 9).

Forewing—Colour darker grey than type. Hindwing smoky.

Type ♀ : nr. Llangollen 1951. Taken at light with several others of a similar form. S. Gordon Smith.

*Harpyia furcula* Cl. ab. **obliterata** ab. nov. (Fig. 10).

Forewing—The broad purplish-grey central band edged on both sides with black is absent, the usual markings along the costa are indistinct, there are two spots on the inner margin.

Type ♂ : nr. Portmadoc 26/6/1953 at light. S. Gordon Smith.

*Xanthorhoë designata* Hufn. ab. **fumata** ab. nov. (Fig. 11).

The whole surface of the fore and hindwings is suffused with smoky grey.

Type ♂ : nr. Llangollen 29/8/1953 at light. David Shentou.

*Cidaria fulvata* Forst. ab. *arearuptata* Sitovski *Spraw. Ac. Cracov.* 1910, 142.

Chailey, 25/6/1920, S. Jacobs. (Mansbridge Coll.)

The undernoted aberrations are described by R. E. VAUGHAN-ROBERTS, B.Sc.

*Triphaena pronuba* L. ab. **cricori** ab. nov. (Fig. 3).

Forewing normal. Hindwing ground colour almost white with the typical black border.

Type ♂: Llysfasi, Denbighshire 1945, R. E. Vaughan-Roberts.

*Hipocrita jacobaeae* L. ab. **pallida** ab. nov. (Fig. 5).

Forewing—Ground colour typical, markings cream with pinkish suffusion. Hindwing—white. Cilia all wings typical.

Type ♂: Llysfasi, Denbighshire bred 1945 by R. E. Vaughan-Roberts.

## A Further Note on *Apatura iris* Linn.

By GEORGE E. HYDE, F.R.E.S.

Mr. H. Symes, in his interesting article on the larva of *A. iris* (*Ent. Record*, 1954, 66: 40), draws attention to several important points relating not only to the appearance and habits of the larva concerned, but also to *A. iris* in its other stages. Having devoted a considerable amount of time and energy to the study of this species during many years, I venture to add a few further remarks.

My first encounter with *iris* goes back a quarter of a century, and since that distant time I have had, at intervals, many interesting experiences with the species, both in the field and at home. On various occasions I have admired *iris* on the wing in its natural setting, and have caught examples of both sexes, but I agree with those authorities, including Mr. Symes, who have commented on the elusive nature of the butterfly and its habit of remaining out of view. This seems to apply equally to localities in which *iris* is well established and to places where its hold is less secure. In consequence of the butterfly's ability to remain not only out of reach but out of sight, one's thoughts turn to the records of earlier collectors. How is it that no one to-day seems to allure the "emperor from his throne" by offering a dead rabbit or a similar bait? Is it that the present generation of butterflies has a less sordid taste? Or are collectors less persevering in the provision of refreshment? No one seems to know.

I have on one occasion seen a male *iris* on a corpse in the woods, and the butterfly concerned had settled on a dead stoat in a gamekeeper's gibbet. But in my experience *iris* displays more often a liking for puddles and muddy patches in woodland rides, or in roads adjacent to its haunts. I have several times surprised males in such places, though I never saw more than one butterfly on a single patch. The sap-exuding damaged limbs of certain trees, especially ash, are also attractive to the males. The females are frequently more in evidence than the males, but it usually requires both patience and skill to catch even one example.

Many collectors have been successful in obtaining eggs from captive females of *iris*, but these butterflies vary considerably in this respect. Some steadfastly refuse to lay even a single egg, but others are more obliging when subjected to the same treatment. Mr. W. A. Cope, one